Snow White and the Science-Magic Dwarves
By Danny Wheeler

Morning had dawned, and the warm sunlight shone through the beautiful ornate window of the master bedroom of a royal palace. This palace would've given the appearance of a high medieval fantasy castle, but for the extremely high-tech devices within and without. The royal residence had radar antennae and satellite dishes on the outside, and various lights, monitors, and devices on the inside. The sunrise gently awoke the happily married pair in bed. The couple had been wed for about a year, but they anticipate many more beautiful and wonderful years to come.

"Rise and shine, my beloved Prince Everest," said the princess. Her cinnamon brown eyes gazed lovingly after she moved some of her shiny black hair out of the way. The prince's green-teal eyes opened slightly, as the woman gently brush his dark brown hair.

The prince, Everest, yawned, and with a smile replied, "Good morning, my darling Snow White."

Indeed, the princess in question was named Snow White, a descendant of the original Snow White and her prince of long ago. After having a lovely morning bath, the two dressed themselves and went downstairs to greet the prince's uncle, the duke, who volunteered to manage matters while the prince's own parents tended to diplomatic missions in other countries, as was the case here.

The duke smiled to see the prince and princess enter the dining hall for breakfast. Snow White wore a beautiful golden yellow dress with blue and white embroideries, as well as a tiara. Prince Everest wore some dignified red, black, and blue attire for one of his status. The duke, wearing some green and blue attire, adjusted the delicately-rimmed glasses over his gray eyes, and touched up his dusty blond hair with his men's hair comb. It seemed like only yesterday the duke, a skilled alchemist, prepared a special immunity to protect Snow White from poisons, as he knew of what had happened to Snow White's ancestor, the original Snow White, and knew someone might attempt it again.

The duke chuckled, "Good morning, you two lovebirds. Breakfast should be soon here." Breakfast soon came out—some waffles, syrup, some breakfast meats, and some hashbrowns. Along with them were some milk, orange juice, some coffees and herbal breakfast teas. The three silently, yet joyfully, had their morning meal to give them energy for the day, as quite the interesting one would commence.

After everyone had their fill, the duke took a sip of Earl Gray tea and said, “Our friends, the Science-Magic Dwarves, had finished renovating their own cottage, and wanted to show what they had been working on since your past visit there.”

“It has been a while since we’ve met them,” giggled Snow White. “We had not seen them since our wedding. My, how the time flies.”

“Indeed,” agreed Prince Everest. “We ought to visit them as soon as possible.”

“I shall get the royal pod ready,” said the duke. They soon went to their special pod. While smaller than a limousine, it could travel to areas off a paved road with little impact to the environment. The duke set course for the dwarves’ cottage in the woods, as the leader of the seven had given a card with the location to the cottage shortly after the pair’s wedding.

The royal transport pod wove through the trails, safely dodging trees and rocks while still providing comfort to the passengers. It soon landed gently and safely a few yards away from the cottage of the dwarves. It almost resembled a small forest manor, due to the renovations over the years. It held the appearance of a large cottage decorated with various high technology, with antennae and satellite dishes.

The leader of the seven, named Francis, welcomed the party to the cottage. His dark gray hair and beard, and his cinnamon brown eyes, contrasted well with his white, green, and blue attire.

“Welcome, old friends,” chuckled Francis. “We’ve gotten the text message from the duke that you’d been visiting. Please, come on in.” The three humans smiled and nodded as they accepted the invitation. The other six dwarves soon greeted the three guests. Though one of them, Galileo, had a slight look of annoyance, albeit not at the visit. Galileo had a medium gray beard with his dark gray hair, along with dark gray eyes, and wore some attire that was decorated with stars.

“Is something wrong?” Snow White asked politely yet curiously.

“It’s not you, milady,” sighed Galileo. “I’ve been upset since the past three nights had clouds obscuring my study of the full moon. I guess there’s always next month. I could’ve used internet sites connected to the satellites, but it just isn’t the same as looking at it through your own telescope.”

“I understand,” said Prince Everest. “Yes, seeing the full moon in person is always better than a photograph or a video file. But like you said, there’s always next month.” Galileo had a small smile return.

“Please,” implored Francis, “make yourselves welcome.” The three human guests sat on some comfortable chairs. The other Dwarves got to meet with them, as they had longed to see them again since Everest and Snow White’s wedding.

“So,” giggled Snow White, “how have you been since our last time together?”

The third dwarf, named Robby, approached the visiting trio. His hair gave a light brown tint, as did his beard, and his pale blue eyes looked up at the human guests with friendly intent. He wore some bright white and blue attire, and even a medallion that had a bunch of balloons as its image, indicating his expertise in gas dynamics.

“Quite well,” said Robby. “I’ve been conducting experiments with some noble gases. Even testing what would react with just science alone, and which would react with science and magic combined.”

“Very intriguing,” mused Prince Everest. “I might have to observe what some of your test results are.”

The fourth dwarf to meet them, Tom, moved his magnifying lens goggles off his face to reveal his tan eyes. His red-brown hair and large mustache complimented his gray and light tan attire. Some dust from his geology work still clung to his clothes, which he promptly dusted off when he noticed them.

The dwarf chuckled, “Things have been, well, solid as a rock! What can I say?”

The humans just chuckled at the clever pun.

Tom continued, “I’ve been investigating the stranger crystals in the mine our own predecessors had mined in the past. Quite a peculiar structural matrix, I must say. I wonder if the magic energy fields from the ruins of the Evil Queen’s castle have anything to do with it.”

Snow White and Prince Everest shivered a bit, as they knew all too well of that account.

Fifth came Isaac. His dirty blond hair and beard contrasted with sea green eyes. He wore red, brown, and tan attire, with some green trim.

“Long time no see, friends!” cheered Isaac. “I had finished an experiment for improving on transport pods, similar to yours. Hopefully soon, I can prepare such minipods for use in space stations.”

“Wonderful!” applauded Snow White.

Prince Everest added, “I might have to see the plans for these so I can contribute to their making.”

"I would be honored, your Excellence," Isaac meekly replied.

Carl was the sixth dwarf to approach. His red hair and beard, as well as gray eyes, matched with his green, yellow, and brown attire. He carried with him a photo album as he approached the three humans.

"It has indeed been a while," smiled Carl. "I've been investigating the new variations of plants and animals in the forest. It seems the recent addition of new nutrients and minerals in the soil helped improve the plant life, and may have helped improve the health of some animals. Perhaps it aids in speciation of both in these."

The duke opened up the photo album. Everest and Snow White looked as well. They marveled at the strong contrasts of previous generations, yet still within the same kinds of old.

"What an amazing set of discoveries!" declared the duke.

Snow White responded, "Hopefully many, if not most, are safe."

"I may have to investigate them further," replied Carl. "Some magic defenses should ensure safety."

Finally came Louie. His light blond hair and beard, without mustache, and greenish-gray eyes, complimented his greenish-white attire.

"Good to see you all," greeted Louie. "I had recently completed some research on some of the microbes in one of the ponds of the forest. Thankfully, these are benign—very unlikely to cause ailments to people. Still, I wouldn't recommend drinking out of the pond without boiling the water or otherwise cleaning it first."

"Point taken," giggled Snow White. Prince Everest and the duke chuckled as well.

A knock of a medium tempo soon came at the cottage door. Francis approached and opened, and soon gasped in awe.

"Dwarf King Albert!" Francis exclaimed in deep reverence.

Indeed, the king of the dwarves in that realm stood at the seven's front door. His medium blond hair and beard, his green eyes, and his royal attire—decked in red, brown, gold, and blue—matched his golden crown fitted with various gems. The king calmly walked in.

"Oh!" gasped Snow White in surprise. Prince Everest and the duke bowed, and Snow White curtsied, to the visiting royal. All seven dwarves knelt reverently before their liege lord.

"We didn't expect a visit from fellow royalty," meekly replied Prince Everest.

“I am glad to see you as well,” Dwarf King Albert chuckled. But his cheerful demeanor faded as he continued, “Alas, I wish it was at a better time.”

“What troubles you, sire?” asked Isaac, stopping his Newton’s cradle so he could maintain attention.

“There’s just no sugar-coating it,” answered King Albert. In a grimmer tone, he continued, “The wicked queen has come back to life.”

An unsettling stillness came over all when the dwarf king said those words.

“Yes,” continued the dwarven royal. “A worshipper of the Great Old One, Cthulhu, had resurrected the same wicked queen who threatened this fair woman’s ancestor, the original Snow White.”

“Cthulhu?!” gasped Carl. “That hideous Eldritch Abomination?!”

“The same,” answered Albert. “No doubt the evil queen of the past would be instrumental to the cult, and their dark deity, in bringing their brand of chaos into our world!”

“Indeed!” said a fearful woman’s voiced followed by a cackle. Everyone exited the cottage to see who spoke, and all gasped in terror. Indeed, there, in the afternoon sky, floated the resurrected Wicked Queen. “I may have fallen to the friends of your namesake ancestor, Snow White, but now, it shall end differently. And perhaps after I take your life, I can make you my undead slave. But why do I deceive myself? As is spoken in our sacred text, the Necronomicon, ‘That is not dead which can eternal lie. And with strange aeons, even death may die.’”

With that, the restored evil queen raised her hands, and intoned a strange chant. Out of the ground rose eldritch knights, called thus because they appeared in strange armor when they first appear. The Wicked Queen lowered her arms briefly to catch her breath, and then intoned another chant. This caused the knights’ armors to glow with a sickly green aura. Once each got close enough to Snow White and party, each knight transformed into some horrid abomination!

“These creeps are not messing around!” said the duke.

“Leave it to us, uncle!” replied Prince Everest, as he prepared to unsheathe his sword.

“Come on, boys!” said Francis. “Let’s get our battle gear! We’ve always known villains might try to come after us, so now we finally have a reason to test out our new weapons!”

“We’ll give you time!” cried Snow White. She then prepared a special bracelet on her right wrist—which had a mix of science and magic for self-defense, should she enter a situation to fight. She pressed a few gem-like buttons that activated a mode that let her throw spheres of

non-elemental magic at the incoming creatures. While these did little to deter the monsters, this provided the dwarves enough time to re-emerge with their own battle gear.

Louie approached one of the monsters the eldritch knights transformed into—a mobile, sentient blob of muck and various disease-causing pathogens. He had some vials of natural antibiotic and antiviral essential oils, which he had mixed in a tub on his back. With a spraying hose, he spritzed the giant lump with the sanitizing and sterilizing mixture. The amorphous mass made noises that showed the mix worked its power. The cleansing spray caused it to shrink and expire.

"I always knew there was a reason to have those healthy essential oils with me," chuckled Louie nervously. "They also have a nice fragrance to go with their disinfecting properties."

Carl, with a spear resembling a supernatural electric cattle prod, did battle with a beast resembling a mixture of several creatures. His head looked like that of a bull; his main torso, a grizzly bear; his arms, a gorilla; his legs, a therapod dinosaur; and even the tail with a scorpion-like barb. Carl leapt away from the tail to avoid the stinger.

The beast mocked, "I truly resemble a mix of several creatures. Your knowledge couldn't comprehend what I am."

"True," said Carl, "but the animal kingdom does have some creatures that looked mixed up. One such creature is the duck-billed platypus. Because it looks like a mix of multiple creatures, some scientists call it a 'mosaic'. But indeed, such a creature exists."

The monster's eyes widened, amazed at Carl's knowledge of such things. This stunned pause gave Carl enough time to move in and thrust his spear. The electrical tip struck between the eyes, and an electrical pulse went through to the brain, knocking it backwards. Carl then leapt and made the spear pierce the heart, ending the battle.

"It is for the better the fight ended quickly," sighed Carl. "If it lasted too long, the scales might've tipped in his favor."

Isaac encountered a monster resembling a slow-moving and strong metal sphere monster, with limbs that smashed some of the trees. It did not have a head, as such, but the eyes and mouth were upon the torso section of the monster. But seeing its spherical shape gave Isaac an idea. He took aim with his special force cannon, set to "concussive force", and aimed at the top portion of its head-body, where one might count as a forehead. The force of the blast made the orb-like creature roll out of the forest—thankfully away from the cottage or his friends.

"Good old law of action-reaction," chuckled Isaac. "You have to love it."

While Isaac battled his foe, Galileo did battle with a crystalized dragon with star patterns. The dark blue crystals of the main body, resembling the clear night sky, provided the perfect setting with the star-like projections decorating it.

Galileo cracked, “Modeled after the constellation Draco, I see. Indeed, the one who designed you has proven quite clever.”

“Indeed,” the dragon responded. “Try to take me down, astronomer dwarf!”

“I’ll gladly hit you in your Eltanin!” Galileo declared.

“What?!” the dragon asked in shock. This stunned response stopped the reptile enough for Galileo to take aim with his own force cannon, striking the dragon’s forehead. The whole crystal beast shattered and the pieces fell to the ground. The fragments then dissolved into dark blue sand, which sank into the ground harmlessly.

When Galileo approached the remains of the crystalline dragon, he sneered, “Eltanin. The star depicting the dragon’s head. It’s derived from “raʾs al-tinnīn”, which is Arabic for ‘head of the dragon’. Which is why I took aim at your head.”

A large golem challenged Tom. The hulking stone humanoid consisted of granite, with super rubber made from a combination of science and magic to provide joints, and thus grant mobility. A glowing medium violet orb in the brute’s chest provided the power. The dwarf pulled out a super-powered jackhammer, which was specially made for combat. Since Tom’s expertise was in geology, he had a premonition he would be encountering stone and gem themed creatures. He leapt away from a hammering punch, which made a large impression in the ground just a few yards away from the cottage.

“I better deal with this brute before he wrecks our home!” cried Tom. While the monster struggled to get its fists out of the earth, he proceeded to use his jackhammer to chisel the foot closest to him. When the golem’s foot shattered, the giant hulk fell over, and Tom leapt away. The orb soon lay exposed, and Tom jackhammered the orb, shattering it. When the crystal ball shattered, the golem crumbled into rubble.

“I’m sure some sculptor might make good use of these remains,” sighed Tom as he wiped some sweat from his brow.

Robby dealt with a being that one could best describe as a slug made of various clouds and dust. But despite its slug-like shape, it moved with a decent tempo. The slug-like cloud monster channeled some electricity and fired from its eye-like protrusions as lightning bolts. At first, his gun could not harm it—the shots went right through the body and hit some of the trees in the background. But then, a thought occurred to him.

“If this creature is made mostly of gas,” Robby said to himself, “then it should behave as gases in nature. Let me see if I can make these gases condense.”

The dwarf then turned a dial on his gun, turning it into a cold ray, and shot the creature. The gases soon condensed into a liquid. Apparently, it was only able to generate electricity in a gaseous state, but in liquid state, it seemed to struggle to do so.

“Now’s my chance!” said Robby. Firing another ray at the liquid form, it froze solid. Robby then smiled, turned the dial on his device, and fired a shot at a large branch above the frozen monstrosity. The branch fell and shattered the beast. When the fragments thawed, they simply soaked into the ground harmlessly.

Francis soon dealt with a creature that looked like a mix of organic and robotic. One could call it a cyborg monster, but that would oversimplify the description. However, the dwarf noticed some panels on the robot parts of the abomination. He then fired a shot in the ground, and bated the beast into punching there. The mechanical arm—its left arm—soon got stuck in the ground. As it struggled to get free, Francis then approached and opened one of that arm’s panels.

“Let us see what some of these wires and chips do,” snickered Francis. He then began to tinker with the wires, computer chips, and other parts, before closing the panel back up. The fist got free, but before the monster could go on the attack again, the fist soon malfunctioned and surged electricity through its body, electrocuting it. The monster fell over, still.

“Wow!” exclaimed Francis. “That reaction I did not expect. All the same, I give thanks that it did happen.”

At first, it seemed only the Wicked Queen remained, but soon, another figure appeared. While a dark red robe with black designs concealed most of his body, no one could doubt this was the evil priest who brought the queen back to the mortal plane.

“So,” said the priest, “you wish to interfere with the Great Old One? He needs more time to arrive!”

“I shall give time!” said the Wicked Queen.

“Allow this to aid you!” added the priest. Holding out both hands, he chanted a spell, and the earth yawned open. A jet black dragon emerged, and aside from its four limbs, its main dragon head, long tail, and wings, it also sported eight tentacles on its sides, making it more a Eldritch horror than it would have appeared otherwise.

“WHAT IS THAT THING?!” shouted Francis.

“I’ll deal with it!” said Prince Everest, getting out his sword.

“You’re mine!” the Queen declared to Snow White. But the princess touched other gems on her bracelet, preparing a special cyan magic blade on her fist.

“Come and get me!” responded Snow White to her ancestor’s evil stepmother. The villainess prepared an energy blade of her own, this one dark magenta.

The thunder-like cracks of the two magic blades clashing sounded in the background as Prince Everest did battle with the eldritch dragon. The tentacles on the reptilian beast send out various magical attacks, so the hero had to alternate between deflecting magic, and parrying physical attacks. One magic burst struck the man’s foot, and he gave a brief yelp of pain.

“Prince Everest!” cried Snow White, recovering her attention just quickly enough to parry the queen’s slash.

Everest stood up, as the blow was minor, just merely bruising him. Soon, he saw an opening and charged, slicing any tentacles that tried to stop him. With a battle cry, he leapt into the air and thrusted the blade into the dragon’s head. The monster screeched and it fell over, falling onto the Queen and squashing her flat—thankfully, Snow White heard the scream and leapt back just in time. Prince Everest embraced his wife, thankful for her safety.

The priest gasped in shock. But after recovering from it, he gave an ominous grin.

“No matter,” laughed the man. “They’ve stalled long enough for him to arrive.”

The worshiper then chanted a blood-chilling mantra. The sky darkened, and the earth rumbled open again. The bodies of the dragon and the evil queen slipped into the abyss, but up rose the very monstrosity the priest served and revered. The large greenish humanoid body, the large bat-like wings, the bald head with tentacles covering his mouth... surely enough, the Eldritch horror known as Cthulhu had risen!

“Shield your eyes, everyone!” cried Dwarf King Albert.

All the others did, but Albert took the full brunt of what came next. He and Cthulhu locked eyes. The dwarf king’s eyes flowed with darkened tears, and he fell over, still.

“King Albert!” shouted Galileo.

“His mind has broken!” added Francis. Indeed, even the king of the dwarves could not grasp the madness that was Cthulhu, but he absorbed the mind-shattering aura, so now Prince Everest, Snow White, and the dwarves, could go on the offense.

Each dwarf reached into his tunic collar, and pulled out a certain medallion.

“What are those?” asked Snow White.

“These are special medallions of our combined science and magic,” explained Francis. “We keep them hidden until a time is required for them. Prince Everest, hold up your sword. Princess Snow White, hold up your bracelet.”

The two humans did so, and beams of energy from the dwarves’ medallions formed a large orb above the two, which split into two smaller spheres. One sphere touched the sword, the other on Snow White’s bracelet. Now the two had the means to take out the Eldritch threat.

Snow White shot out white energy spheres at the Old One, which not only wounded him, but removed any barrier for Prince Everest’s progress. The prince charged forward through any opening his beloved wife made. With a leap, he then plunged the sword, bathed in a glowing aura of light, into the abomination’s chest. A stinking gray-green cloud spurt out, as Cthulhu melted back into the abyss. As his liquifying form sank, it flailed and even dragged the summoning priest with him as he let out a blood-chilling scream. Soon, the crevasse closed behind him, and in a subterranean river leading to the ocean, he flowed back to his home in R’lyeh, where he remained until some fool should dare to summon him again.

“We’ve won the battle,” panted Snow White, wiping sweat from her head.

“Alas,” responded the prince, “it was not without casualties.”

The seven dwarves circled the body of their fallen king, tears flowing from their eyes in deep sorrow and reverence. The duke had emerged from hiding, for he knew his battle skills were very rusty.

“I am dreadfully sorry for your loss, friends,” the duke sighed.

The three humans visited the Dwarf Kingdom, where a memorial was held as the fallen king was interred into the royal crypt. After a week of mourning, because Albert was unmarried and without an heir, the seven Science-Magic Dwarves soon prepared a council, to prepare a series of rites that would determine the new Dwarf King.

The transport pod soon returned to Everest’s castle, and the three humans returned home.

“Despite the tragedy of losing the Dwarf King,” said Snow White, “it was quite an exciting time. And I sympathize with the Dwarf Kingdom, yet have reassurance they’ll overcome this trial.”

“An unexpected excitement,” Everest chuckled, “but quite exciting nonetheless. And I completely agree with you, my love.”

“I just got word from your father,” the duke said to Prince Everest. “They’ll be returning from their diplomatic mission within a few days.”

“It is good we made things safe for their return,” Everest responded. “I doubt they would want to have to deal with an Eldritch horror ruining their land.”

“I so agree there,” Snow White laughed cutely.

The duke then went to the study to read some books, while the royal couple went to play in their flower garden for romantic relaxation.